Friendship and Thanksgiving

The story of the first Thanksgiving is historically connected to the Pilgrims, who came from England to America in search of religious freedom. The Pilgrim arrive at Plymouth Rock on December 11, 1620. Their first winter was devastating.



It was spring in New England. Squanto and Samoset were hunting on the beach. Far ahead they saw a village. As they walked closer, they saw a few people. They were surprised to see English people here. They watched the village for several days. Finally, they decided to go into the village. Samoset walked into the village and said, "Welcome." Squanto followed him. The Pilgrims were surprised to meet two Indians who spoke English.

Squanto was a Wampanoag, and his friend was a Wabanake. They had been in England. They had learned to speak English. Squanto and Samoset learned about the troubles the Pilgrims had. They lived in dirt-covered huts. There was not enough food. Almost half of the Pilgrims had died during the winter. They needed help. Squanto decided to stay with them.

During the next few months, he taught them how to grow corn and other new vegetables. He brought them deer meat and beaver skins. He helped them build Indian-style houses so they could keep warm. He showed them how to use plants for medicine. He explained how to catch fish and how to use the fish to help the plants grow. He helped them get sap from maple trees. He taught them many other things, too.

By fall, the Pilgrims had enough food for the winter. Their houses were warm. They had built a church. They knew many things about how to live in their new land. They decided to have a feast to celebrate all the good things they had. Captain Miles Standish, the leader of the Pilgrims, invited Chief Massasoit of the Algonquins, Squanto, Samoset, and their families to come to the feast.

When the Indians came, they brought food with them. They brought deer, wild turkeys, fish, berries, beans, cornbread, and squash. The Indians and the Pilgrims feasted together for three days. It was a special time of friendship and thanksgiving.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1. What did Squanto and Samoset find? [1]

2. What were they surprised to see? [1]

3. What surprised the Pilgrims about Squanto and Samoset? [1]

4. Why did the Pilgrims need help? [1]

5. Name three things Squanto taught the Pilgrims to do. [3]

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

6. When did the Pilgrims decide to have a feast? [1]

7. Who was the leader of the Pilgrims? [1]

8. Whom did he invite to the feast? [1]

9. What did the Indians bring? List five things. [5]

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10. How long did they feast? [1]

LIVEWORKSHEETS